

### **REMARKS**

Claims 18-34 are now in the application. No claims have been amended by this Response. Claims 18-28 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Claims 29-34 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,607,803 to Murofushi et al.

Independent claim 29 recites, among other features, that the anion  $Y^{m-}$  has the general formula  $[AR^{10}_k]^{m-}$  or the anion  $Y^{m-}$  is a borate anion of the general formulae (V) or (VI). At least these features of claim 29 cannot reasonably be considered to be suggested in Murofushi.

Murofushi suggests a decolorizable toner and a production process therefore. Murofushi suggests a wide variety of cationic dyes, some of which may be cyanine dyes. See col. 5, lines 30 to 38. Specifically, Murofushi suggests, at col. 3, lines 40-45, that the toner contains one or more cationic dyes of formulas (1) and (2).

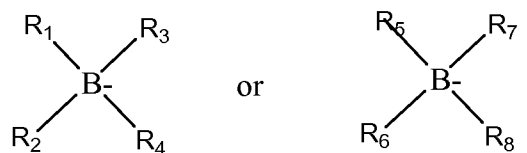
For formula (1), i.e.,  $A^- \cdot D^+$ , the anion may be selected from the list at col. 5, lines 40-57, of Murofushi, such as, halogen ions, perchloric acid ions, or  $PF_6^-$ .  $A^-$  may further be a substituted methylsulfonic acid, such as  $FCH_2SO_3^-$ , or a substituted phenylsulfonic acid, such as  $CH_3C_6H_4SO_3^-$ .

Instant claim 29, however, recites that for the anion  $Y^{m-}$  having the general formula  $[AR^{10}_k]^{m-}$ , k is 1, 2, or 3 and m is 1 or 2. Thus, the anion  $Y^{m-}$  may be, for example,  $[AR^{10}]^-$ ,  $[AR^{10}]^{2-}$ , or  $[AR^{10}_2]^{2-}$ . The highest value for k is 3. The nonpolar group(s)  $R^{10}$  are independently of another selected from linear, branched or cyclic alkyl groups having 6 to 30 carbon atoms, and from alkylaryl groups of the general formula  $-aryl-R^{11}$ , where  $R^{11}$  is a linear or branched alkyl group having 3 to 30 carbon atoms. Thus, claim 29 does not, for example, read on a substituted phenylsulfonic acid.

Murofushi, further suggests that cationic dyes may be of formula (2), wherein a boron atom comprises four substituents. Accordingly, Murofushi cannot reasonably be considered to

suggest features corresponding to an anion  $Y^{m-}$  having the general formula  $[AR^{10}_k]^{m-}$ , wherein k is 1, 2, or 3 and m is 1 or 2, as recited in claim 29.

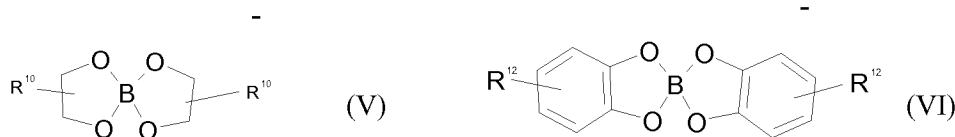
The boronate anions  $A^-$  suggested at col. 5, line 59 to col. 6, line 57, of Murofushi have the following structures:



Thus, the boron atom in the boronate anions  $A^-$  of Murofushi comprise four substituents  $R_1$  through  $R_4$  or  $R_5$  through  $R_8$ .

Moreover, the boron in the anion  $A^-$  of Murofushi cannot reasonably be considered to correspond to an ionic head group, as claimed.

Claim 29 further recites that anion  $Y^{m-}$  may be a borate anion of the general formulae (V) or (VI)



Applicants respectfully submit that the boronate anions  $A^-$  suggested at col. 6, lines 16-57, of Murofushi can also not reasonably be considered to correspond to general formulae (V) or (VI).

Specifically, Murofushi suggests, at col. 5, line 59 to col. 6, line 15, that  $R_1$  through  $R_4$  are organic ligands that are bonded to boron through a carbon atom. Thus, as evidenced by the specific examples at col. 6, lines 16-57, the boronate anions of Murofushi have four boron-

carbon bonds. By contrast, instant claim 29 recites borate anions having four boron-oxygen bonds.

As appreciated by the Examiner, Murofushi fails to explicitly state that the cyanine cations suggested therein are provided in the form of a dye with the anions considered to correspond to the instant anions. However, as set forth above, the anions of Murofushi cannot reasonably be considered to correspond to the instantly claimed anions  $Y^{m-}$ .

Claims 30-34 are in condition for allowance for at least their respective dependence on an allowable claim 29, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 12810-00341-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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